

**PARK BOARD MEETING
Foster Community Center
February 8, 2017**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Veronica Gracia-Wing, Jim McClurken, Rita O'Brien, Clayton King, Bryan Beverly, Paulette, Carter-Scott, Rick Kibbey, Rosalinda Hernandez

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Brett Kaschinske, Parks and Recreation Director; Kellie Brown, Board Secretary; Dennis Louney, Spicer Group; Pat Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner; Brian Cenci, ENG; Dale Schrader, Preservation Lansing; Stephen Vrla, MSU; Melody Angel, Mid-MEAC

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Jim McClurken asked to move item A under updates to item C New Business

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS

Dale Schrader provided pictures of the inside of the Jenison House and a letter with his concerns about items inside the house that should have been salvaged. He stated the only thing that has been salvaged is the front door and the staircase. There are doors that are not painted and the French doors could have been salvaged. BWL does what they want and discredits groups such as Preservation Lansing. BWL has not been held accountable; the wall is now only going to be 12 feet high and will not hide the substation. The Cooley-Haze House is in trouble and BWL should step up and save that house.

Veronica Gracia-Wing asked for a statement from Brett Kaschinske on the salvage.

Brett Kaschinske stated an outside firm was hired to evaluate the hazardous materials a level of 5% and over. The plaster on the walls, the material between the siding and lead paint were all found to be hazardous within the house. Even if trim and doors were not painted, anything attached to or in contact with the hazardous material was considered contaminated. Cleanup and abatement was cost prohibitive and the City had to be responsible to not donate those items to Habitat for Humanity.

Bryan Beverly inquired when the doors were supposedly removed; Kaschinske stated last week. Beverly inquired when the photos were taken; Schrader stated some time ago.

Jim McClurken inquired about the bathroom fixtures and that he has replaced similar items and it is very costly. Kaschinske stated those items were tested also and the City was not comfortable passing the problem onto Habitat.

Gracia-Wing asked Kaschinske if the fixtures were still in the house. Kaschinske stated he did not know, the site is now a construction/demolition hazardous site and he has not been in the building.

Gracia-Wing stated she would like to meet with Kaschinske to obtain more information.

Kaschinske emphasized the City did their due diligence to test and salvage what could be.

Gracia-Wing stated she wants to explore what options may still be available.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Bryan Beverly moved to accept the January 11, 2017 minutes as submitted; seconded by Paulette Carter-Scott. 5 yeas; 0 nays

Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS

Montgomery Drain

Pat Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, provided schematics of the Montgomery Drain Project. There will be walkways, a wall of water, south of the field there will be 23 water falls, and the ponds will hold fish. He has obtained a grant from Union Sportsman Association for outdoor activities in the amount of \$10,000 and possibly more which will be used for docks to fish from.

The pathways are extensive and will have electrical outlets for musicians and concerts. Marshall Music is donating speakers. The snow hill is to the south and will be built by safe sledding standards and the south side will be used for concerts.

Red Cedar Park will have several ponds and waterfalls to recapture the water. There may be a canoe access point on the river.

The Commissioner's office will build pads, maintain and plow them. They have a turf specialist to design various types of grass and where to use it to accommodate the type of use for the area. Commissioner's office will not mow the area, they will designate flower areas and place buffers around the beds to lessen the mowing area.

Their office will also put up signs in the grass areas and wetlands. Signs for the pathway and use will need to be installed by the City, as well as for the sledding hill.

The City will be responsible for trash pick-up in the park and walkways. Commissioner's office will remove trash in the water features.

Marshall Music is interested in scheduling the music acts and free concerts.

There will be a 24 foot clock donated to Mid-MEAC Art in the Park which will be on the corner near Grand River. This will have a water fountain and the clock will be made out of floral annuals. The plan is to work with the botanical group at MSU.

Michigan Avenue will have streams in the median and this is the area planned to re-locate the Windlord to. This area will all be maintained by the drain commission.

The plan is to have murals on the back of the buildings located at Frandor and will be changed every two years.

Art in the Park wants to work with poetry clubs and schools to have solar powered kiosks featuring poetry written by students.

Kaschinske stated there will need to be agreements created with Mid-MEAC, Marshall Music and the Ingham County Drain Commission.

Lindemann stated neither tax payers or the drain commission will subsidize Art in the Part, they will be fundraising.

Kaschinske asked Dennis Louney to work within the City's art policy.

Lindemann stated he would like to have the River Trail be a freedom trail with plaques honoring acts of freedom and moments in history.

Gracia-Wing stressed to Lindemann to ensure all appropriate groups are being involved with the project.

Kaschinske inquired if the pathway along the wall is ADA compliant; Lindemann stated yes.

Brian Cenci stated the general layout presented this evening is firm. Lindemann stated the ponds are set, but the paths can be discussed.

Rita O'Brien inquired if there is currently a bike group using Ranney Park.

Kaschinske stated there is a group who rides the park, but there is no course set up for it.

Paulette Carter-Scott inquired about lights in the park.

Lindemann stated there will be lighting along the path.

Kaschinske stated lights would be for safety, because park hours are dawn to dusk.

Kaschinske said parking is a concern with the housing units that are being built and it will be monitored to not interfere with park events.

Gib King inquired about the cost and timeline of the project.

Lindemann referred to the document handed out at the beginning of the meeting. There is no set cost on the project and the project start date is October 2017.

Deer Social Sustainability

Stephen Vrla from MSU is a dual PhD student. Presented a PowerPoint presentation which included his background, course of study and the steps involved in a survey.

The presentation covered deer population, browsing, social sustainability and ecological sustainability and management methods non-lethal vs. lethal.

Research methods include Quantitative, Qualitative, Mixed which would include questionnaire, pretest, administering questionnaire, analyze results, acting on results and cost of administration.

Vrla reviewed the types of surveys (telephone, mail, on-line), the steps to take, and results needed.

Gib King inquired if it needs to go to all of Lansing or just areas around parks with deer. Vrla recommended all Lansing residents.

Rita O'Brien inquired what method did East Lansing and Ann Arbor use.

Vrla stated East Lansing did an on-line survey with a few hundred results but not a representation of the city.

O'Brien inquired if a certified company would need to be hired to ensure the results are accurate.

Kaschinske stated this is through MSU, which have been an approved studies and surveys in the past.

King asked Vrla if he has been involved in these studies in other cities. Vrla stated yes. O'Brien asked what was expected from the presentation this evening.

Veronica Gracia-Wing stated she would like to defer to the sub-committee on this subject.

Kaschinske stated he would need an idea of the total cost involved.

Vrla stated he could obtain quotes but his estimate is between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Gracia-Wing stated the board would like to have more detailed quotes and options before making a decision.

O'Brien asked, as a board, do we have confidence in this process and the results.

Jim McClurken stated Vrla will soon complete two PhD's and those are his license and qualifications.

Vrla stated he could develop the survey and analyze the results, but a source to administer the survey would need to be hired.

Gracia-Wing asked Vrla if he would use the results or publish them.

Vrla stated the results would be used as his work, but the board would own the results.

Gracia-Wing asked the sub-committee to obtain detailed quotes, discuss and come back to the board.

Capital Improvement Projects

Brett Kaschinske reviewed the proposed capital improvement projects for fiscal year 2018 and asked the board members to be prepared to vote in March.

OLD BUSINESS

Groesbeck

Board was provided with a proposed cost and plan for a concrete patio or wooden deck with tent to host events and outings.

LEPFA provided a projected summary of revenue and the last RFP quotes were provided for course management.

Veronica Gracia-Wing will send out the survey questions LEPFA and the golf manager provided to receive board input.

Groesbeck is still in the information gathering stage.

Rick Kibbey stated a business plan still needs to be looked at and how good is LEPFA at this and who else provides these services to the Lansing area.

Gib King stated he thought this was going to go back out to bid for a management agreement.

Brett Kaschinske confirmed we are below the average staffing levels for courses in the area. He would compare Groesbeck to Woodside, Forest Akers East, Chisholm and Royal Scott.

Kibbey recommended checking with those courses for their rates.

Kaschinske stated we are competitive on golf fees, but outing costs are guarded and not easily obtained.

UPDATES

Foster & Averill Parks

Kaschinske stated he has met with both groups regarding their master plan. There are simple things we can do at this time.

Fulton, Fine & Hunter's Ridge

Met with the residents to answer questions regarding the mountain bike path; meeting went well.

Women's Historical Center

They have provided written notice that they will be moving out of the Cooley-Haze House on April 25. Veronica Gracia-Wing created a subcommittee to include herself, Rosalinda Hernandez and Paulette Carter-Scott to discuss options.

Rick Kibbey recommended after the issues with the Scott Center to use a reputable company to assess the value of the property and contents.

River Trail Grants

Kaschinske stated the Parks Commission recommended to the full board expansion projects which included Cavanaugh along US127 to Mount Hope, Forest through Evergreen to Crego.

Park Board Annual Report

No update at this time.

Meeting adjourned 9:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted: Kellie Brown, Park Board Secretary
Approved March 8, 2017